

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190357

FOR SECRETARY VANCE

E.O. ,1652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PORG, SWEL

SUBJECT: YOUR MEETING WITH SUDANESE MINSTATE FRANCIS DENG

REF: KHARTOUM 3319

1. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR USE IN YOUR MEETING
JULY 28 AT 9:00 A.M. WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS DR. FRANCIS DENG.

2. BACKGROUND: DR. FRANCIS DENG, THE FORMER SUDANESE
AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON (1/75-2/76), IS A NOTED AFRICAN
ANTHROPOLOGIST, AN ACCOMPLISHED DIPLOMAT AND A RESPECTED
POLITICAL LEADER OF SOUTHERN SUDAN. DR. DENG IS IN NEW
YORK AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT NIMEIRI IN
THE LATTERS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU TO ATTEND
THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NAMIBIA. FOLLOWING THE
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UNSC MEETING DENG WILL TAKE LEAVE WITH HIS FAMILY (HIS
AMERICAN WIFE IS EXPECTING A CHILD) AND THEN BE INVOLVED
IN ADVANCING PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S VISIT TO THE UNGA AND THE
U.S. THIS FALL.
CLEARLY DR DENG'S FIRST CONCERN IS TO GENERATE USG RESPONSE
TO THE FLOOD EMERGENCY IN THE GEZIRA REGION IMMEDIATELY
SOUTH OF KHARTOUM AND ALONG THE NILE VALLEY NORTH OF

KHARTOUM. REPORTEDLY 2/3RDS OF THE GEZIRA AGRICULTURE SCHEME HAS BEEN SUBMERGED BY THE FLOOD WATERS. SOME 15 VILLAGES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND MANY OTHERS DAMAGED, THOUSANDS OF CATTLE HAVE DROWNED, IRRIGATION CANALS HAVE BEEN BADLY DAMAGED AND 75,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEFT HOMELESS. OUR CHARGE IN KHARTOUM HAS DESIGNATED THE FLOOD A DISASTER EMERGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT IS ORGANIZING APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION. AT THIS POINT WE ARE DETERMINING MEANS OF RESPONDING TO THE SUDANESE REQUEST FOR DISASTER RELIEF.

3. TALKING POINTS:

-- WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SEVERE FLOOD DAMAGE. OUR EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM IS FOLLOWING THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND IS COOPERATING WITH VICE PRESIDENT ALIER'S RELIEF COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

-- OUR OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE IS ALREADY ENGAGED IN LOCATING RELIEF SUPPLIES, DETERMINING AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT AND COORDINATING WITH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS. THE UNITED STATES WILL RESPOND TO THE BEST OF ITS ABILITY AND CAPACITY TO THE SUDANESE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. WE WILL KEEP THE MINISTER AND HIS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON INFORMED, AS WELL AS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SUDANESE GOVERNMENT IN KHARTOUM, AS OUR RELIEF EFFORTS PROGRESS IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. COURTESY POINT:

-- E FOLLOWED THE OAU SUMMIT CLOSELY AND APPRECIATED NIMEIRI'S ROLE IN MAKING THE SUMMIT A CONSTRUCTIVE SESSION.

SUGGESTED REPLIES TO POINTS DENG MAY RAISE:

ECONOMIC:

-- WE ARE GRATIFIED TO LEARN OF SUDAN'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ITS DIFFICULT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES HARROP AND HORMATS HAD A USEFUL DISCUSSION WITH SUDANESE FINANCE MINISTER HASHIM IN WASHINGTON JULY 25. WE BELIEVE THAT THE AGREEMENT RECENTLY REACHED WITH

THE IMF WILL SET THE STAGE FOR ENHANCED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT FROM TRADITIONAL SUPPORTERS AND FROM WESTERN NATIONS. WE ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE

LEVEL AND MAGNITUDE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO SUDAN. WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE AND WILL ENDEAVOR TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUDAN'S NEEDS, ALTHOUGH WE DO HAVE LEGISLATIVE DIFFICULTIES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING IN AN IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP, SHOULD ONE BE ESTABLISHED AS SEEMS LIKELY.

NIMEIRI VISIT TO U.S.:

-- WE LOOK FORWARD TO PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AT THE TIME OF UNGA AND COUNT ON HAVING A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH HIM AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EAST ISSUES AS WELL AS SUBJECTS OF BILATERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST.

CHRISTOPHER

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